

Message Text

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ACTION COA-01

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DOT-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PM-03 DODE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00

SCS-03 COME-00 AGR-05 INT-05 PA-01 TRSE-00 SP-02 /069 W

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FM AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3737

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GUAYAQUIL 0328

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, PLOS, EC, US

SUBJ: SEIZED U.S. TUNA VESSELS: CONFISCATION OF CATCH;

JACQUELINE A, A.K. STROM AND NEPTUNE

1. DURING FEB 26 TELEPHONE CONVERSATION NAVAL ZONE CHIEF OF STAFF, CAPT. RUIZ, STATED THAT ORDERS HAD BEEN ISSUED WHICH WOULD PERMIT BOAT OWNERS TO BUY-BACK CATCH TO AVOID DELAY IN VESSELS' DEPARTURE. RUIZ SAID THAT NO STORAGE FACILITIES AVAILABLE IN SALINAS AND FREEZER SPACE IN MANTA WOULD NOT BE READY UNTIL MONDAY, MARCH 3. IF OWNERS DO NOT WISH BUY-BACK FISH, BOATS WILL BE ORDERED TO SAIL TO MANTA SATURDAY, MARCH 1 TO BEGIN UNLOADING MARCH 3. MANTA PORT CAPTAIN JACOME STATED IN FEB 26 TELEPHONE CONVERSATION THAT UNLOADING IN MANTA WOULD BE ON BOAT BY BOAT BASIS IN ORDER OF CAPTURE, BEGINNING WITH JACQUELINE A., FOLLOWED BY STROM AND NEPTUNE, AND ENDING WITH "EL PERRO" (IF LAST NAMED GOES TO MANTA).

2. CONGEN OFF WAGNER REPORTED FROM SALINAS EVENING FEB 25 THAT ZAPATA REP SOURSA HAD REFUSED BUY-BACK OPTION IN MEETING WITH EPNA MANAGER CHACON. AS A RESULT JACQUELINE A WILL IN ALL LIKELIHOOD BE ORDERED TO SAIL TO MANTA FOR OFF-LOADING CATCH STILL ON BOARD (ABOUT 250 TONS).

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3. EMBOFF WOLTMAN REPORTED FROM MANTA EVENING OF FEB 25 THAT STARKIST REP GLIGO WOULD REFUSE ACCEPT BUY-BACK PLAN ON GROUNDS SPACE AVAILABLE IN MANTA AS RESULT OF LOADING, NOW UNDERWAY, OF 1200 TONS OF TUNA ON REEFER SHIP "MOCHICA". GLIGO TRAVELING FROM MANTA TO GUAYAQUIL MORNING OF FEB 26.

4. BANK OF AMERICA ASSISTANT MANAGER SELLARS REPORTED MONEY FOR NEPTUNE FINE RECEIVED MORNING FEB 26. BANK MAKING OUR CHECKS TO APPROPRIATE GOE AGENCY TO BE DELIVERED BY LAWYER ZAPATIER. OFFICIAL DECISION ON FINES DELIVERED TO NEPTUNE CAPTAIN ON FEB 13.

5. COMMENT: THERE IS SOME CONFUSION CONCERNING EXACT MEANING OF DIRECTORATE OF FISHERIES ORDER TO BOAT OWNERS TO BUY-BACK CATCH. APPARENTLY RUIZ AND CHACON INTERPRET ORDER AS GIVING OWNERS OPTION OF BUYING BACK CATCH OR WAITING UNTIL ADEQUATE STORAGE SPACE AVAILABLE. LAWYER ZAPATIER STATES, HOWEVER, THAT HE RECEIVED DISTINCT IMPRESSION IN CONVERSATION WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FISHERIES ARROYO THAT ORDER MEANS OWNERS HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE TO PURCHASE OF FISH. ARROYO IS NOW IN MANTA INSPECTING AVAILABLE STORAGE FACILITIES AND HIS LEGAL ADVISOR SANCHEZ WAS UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO CLARIFY SITUATION. WILL TRY TO SET UP MEETING WITH SOUSA, GLIGO, AND ARROYO IN GUAYAQUIL ON FEB 27 WHEN ARROYO SCHEDULED RETURN FROM MANTA.
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